

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 SSO-00 /124 W

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P R 192240Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2495

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3810

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, NU

SUBJECT: TWO OF FSLN'S PRINCIPAL LEADERS KILLED BY NATIONAL
GUARD

REF: MANAGUA 3788

SUMMARY: THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) KILLED TWO IMPORTANT
FRENTE SANDINISTA DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (FSLN) LEADERS IN
NANDAIME ON SEPTEMBER 18, OSCAR TURCIOS AND RICARDO
MORALES. JUDGING FROM THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE CONCERNING
THE EVENTS IN NANDAIME, THE GN STUMBLED ONTO THE
SANDINISTAS BY ACCIDENT. THE DEATH OF TURCIOS AND MORALES
IS A HARD BLOW TO THE FSLN AND COULD STIMULATE TERRORISTIC
REACTION BY ITS MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NATIONAL GUARD RELEASED A COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 19
GIVING THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE EVENTS IN NANDAIME REPORTED
IN REFTEL. FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF THAT COMMUNIQUE:

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SEPTEMBER 17 - 11:30 PM. THE TWO SUSPICIOUS PERSONS WERE

ARRESTED IN NANDAIME FOR CARRYING UNAUTHORIZED WEAPONS (TWO PISTOLS).

SEPTEMBER 18 - 8:00 AM. ARRIVING AT THE HOUSE IN NANDAIME WHERE THE TWO DETAINED ON THE SEVENTEENTH SAID THEY WERE GOING TO "SEE SOME GIRLS" THREE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, INCLUDING THE 59 YEAR OLD GN COMMANDER OF NANDAIME, SUB-TENIENTE FRANCISCO SALGUERA, WERE GUNNED DOWN AND KILLED AS THEY WALKED IN THE DOOR. THE ASSAILANTS FLED IN THE COMPANY OF TWO WOMEN.

12:30 PM. THE FLEEING ASSAILANTS WERE INTERCEPTED BY THE GN ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS OUTSIDE NANDAIME AND ANSWERED AN ORDER TO SURRENDER WITH A BARRAGE OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE AND FRAGMENTATION GRENADES KILLING A GN ENLISTED MAN AND WOUNDING ANOTHER. THE GN RETURNED THEIR FIRE KILLING THE TWO UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS.

4:30 PM. A GN PATROL LEFT NANDAIME WITH THE TWO MEN DETAINED SEPTEMBER 17 WHO WERE PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO A HOUSE WHERE THE TWO STILL UNLOADED WOMEN MIGHT BE FOUND. THE TWO DETAINEES TRIED TO ESCAPE AND WERE KILLED AFTER THEY REFUSED TO STOP. (...EN UN LUGAR ACCIDENTADO TRATARON DE ESCAPAR, SIENDO MUERTOS, DESPUES DE QUE AL SER CONMINADOS A DETENERSE, NO HICIERON CASO.) THE TWO WOMEN REMAIN AT LARGE AND ARE STILL BEING SOUGHT.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE GOES ON TO LIST WEAPONS FOUND ON THE FOUR PERSONS KILLED - INCLUDING TWO MACHINE GUNS, THE TWO PISTOLS TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND A HAND GRENADE. IT ALSO STATES THAT SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE, MILITARY MANUALS, MAPS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AMMUNITION AND FRENTE SANDINISTA DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (FSLN) PAMPHLETS ON CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS WERE FOUND IN THE HOUSE WHERE THE THREE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WERE KILLED. THE COMMUNIQUE IDENTIFIES THREE OF THE MEN KILLED BY THE GN AND GIVES DETAILS ON THEM TAKEN FROM GN NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICE FILES. THEY ARE OSCAR ARIEL TURCIOS CHAVARRIA, RICARDO MORALLES AVILES, AND JONATHAN GONZALEZ MORALES.

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3. AFTER CARLOS FONSECA AMADOR, TURCIOS AND MORALES ARE THE TWO MOST PROMINENT KNOWN LEADERS OF THE FSLN. DEPARTMENT HAS BACKGROUND BIO INFORMATION ON THEM. BOTH WERE EARLY MEMBERS OF THE FSLN AND BOTH HAD IN THE PAST LED GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN NICARAGUA. THE THIRD MAN, JONATHAN GONZALEZ MORALES, PRESUMEDLY ONE OF THOSE KILLED WHILE "TRYING TO ESCAPE," IS ALSO KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY AS A FSLN ACTIVIST. THE GN COMMUNIQUE LIST HIM AS A

21 YEAR OLD SHOEMAKER FROM LEON PROVINCE WHO WAS
RECRUITED INTO THE FSLN IN JULY 1970 AND WHO HAS BEEN
ACTIVE IN CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

4. THE GN PLACED THE ARMS AND OTHER MATERIALS SEIZED IN
THE NANDAIME ENCOUNTERS ON EXHIBIT AT THEIR PUBLIC RELATIONS
OFFICE THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 19.

5. COMMENT: TURCIOS AND MORALES' PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA,
APPARENTLY WELL-ARMED AND FINANCED, CONFIRMS THE GENERAL
IMPRESSION IN THE COUNTRY THAT THE FSLN ALTHOUGH QUIET FOR
MANY MONTHS - EXCEPT FOR UNCONFIRMED RUMORS OF ENCOUNTERS
IN THE MATAGALPA AREA - HAS CONTINUED TO OPERATE WITH POTENTIAL
FOR UNDERTAKING AT LEAST LIMITED GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES. THEIR
DEATHS, ALTHOUGH LARGELY AS A RESULT OF HAPPENSTANCE, WOULD
ON THE FACE OF IT SEEM AN IMPORTANT SETBACK TO THE FSLN.
HOWEVER, THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD PROVOKE THE REMAINING
MEMBERS TO UNDERTAKE TERRORISTIC ACTION TO AVENGE THE DEATHS
OF THEIR LEADERS AND TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONTINUED
VIABILITY.
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